basic services to the victims of prostitution, rescue and rehabilitation, awareness generation land social mobilization. The progress of implementation of the Plan of Action is monitored through the Central Advisory Committee headed by Secretary (WCD). The Government has also issued instructions to the States/UTs for establishing the necessary mechanism to ensure speedy implementation of the Plan of action and the provisions of Immoral Traffaic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

**Arbitrary removal of BALCO employees**

† 2216. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that employees in BALCO are being removed arbitrarily after implementation of VRS in the Company; and

(b) if so, what action Government are taking to protect interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) In the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 8.5.2001 between the workers' unions and the new management of BALCO, it was agreed that the existing VRS (based on 2 months' benefit) would be opened from time to time, and that the workers would be given this option next in July, 2001. Accordingly, BALCO management has reintroduced the VRS with effect from 31.7.2001; the scheme will be open up to 16.8.2001.

(b) The Government had stipulated in the Shareholders Agreement signed with the new management that no worker will be retrenched by the company during the period of one year after the take-over. Moreover, in case a VRS is introduced, it will be on terms not less favourable than the VRS offered by Government. The BALCO management is adhering to both these stipulations.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.